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SUDDENLY THERE WAS A GAP

Edmonton's iconic Cloverdale footbridge is coming down
metroNEWS

KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

Pedestrian killed, transit driver charged

INVESTIGATION

13-year-old died after being hit on crosswalk



Alex
Boyd
Metro | Edmonton

Edmonton Police have charged an ETS bus driver in connection with the death of 13-year-old Mariama Sillah, who died after being hit while walking in a crosswalk last month.

Judith Jackson, 62, has been charged with failing to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk, under the Traffic Safety Act.

On the evening of Nov. 26 Sillah was headed home after buying a sandwich. She was crossing 137 Avenue southbound on 40 Street, in a marked crosswalk, when she was hit by Jackson, who was driving an ETS bus.

An investigation by the Edmonton Police's major collisions unit determined that the teen was dragged by the bus Jackson was driving as she made a left turn onto 137 Avenue.

Sillah was declared deceased on scene.

"This is a very unfortunate situation, and our thoughts and condolences remain with the family and friends of the girl who passed away," city spokesperson Janice Schroeder said, in an emailed statement.

Schroeder added that these incidents are also difficult for employees and staff.

This is the second time in three months an ETS bus driver has been charged with failing to yield to a pedestrian.

In October, police also charged ETS driver Kellie Rowe with failing to yield to a pedestrian in a marked crosswalk.

Rowe was driving an ETS bus on Oct. 4 when she hit and killed an 83-year-old woman walking across 87 Avenue.

The woman was taken to hospital where she later died.

Schroeder said the city has taken steps to address safety concerns.

"For example, we are looking at the new technologies other transit systems are piloting, and we are reviewing our safety programs and practices," she said.

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HEALTH

It's Knucklecracker time for musicians

 **Kevin Maimann**
Metro | Edmonton

Many classical musicians get the same things for Christmas: A lot of extra work and a lot of extra injuries.

Indeed, one occupational therapist at the University of Alberta, who also plays the oboe, is using her experience with musical-induced injuries as inspiration to for new research into the strange spike in injuries that musicians face each year at Christmas.

Christine Guptill said the holiday season puts extra strain on the musically inclined — especially classical musicians in high demand for Christmas themed concerts — and this often leads to injuries.

"Just imagine you were working out. You have your regular workout routine and then all of a sudden someone tells you (that) you should be working out an extra 40 hours a week," said Guptill.

A recent Australian study showed 84 per cent of musicians had physical problems related to playing their instrument at some point in their career.

With a tendency toward freelancing in the music world, most take on extra work whenever they can get it.

Guptill said it's important to have good posture when practising, not to spend too long hammering over the same difficult passage, and to take frequent breaks.

"About every half hour, people should be taking a five-minute break. If you're injured it should be more frequent," she said.

DEMOLITION

A bridge no more

The Cloverdale Footbridge — a span built in the 1970s that offers the most picturesque shots of downtown, and a bridge that many Edmonton residents have fought vehemently to save — is officially no longer a bridge.

Demolition workers removed a span from the bridge Tuesday morning, making the structure's disappearance that much more real for the city.

The bridge is being torn down to make room for the Valley Line LRT, which is slated to open in 2020.

"It is an iconic figure," said Larry Wall, executive director of the River Valley Alliance.



Dr. Christine Guptill.
KEVIN MAIMANN/METRO



Tahani Al Kadri (right) sits with her children Maya and Talal. Al Kadri's sister, Heba, sits left of the two kids. JEREMY SIMES/METRO

Newcomers ponder what comes next

SYRIAN REFUGEES
One year on

English still a barrier to success for many refugees

 **Jeremy Simes**
Metro | Edmonton

Tahani Al Kadri and her sister Heba received the same phone call four years ago within an hour, from the same relative.

He called to tell them that both their husbands had been killed just outside Damascus during a battle.

The phone call was the beginning of their journey out of Syria and to a new life, in Edmonton.

"My children sometimes cry for him," said Tahani, sitting in her dining room. She and Heba now live together in a small bungalow in north Edmonton, parenting four children — Tahani has three, Heba has two.

Wall said the bridge has been a "great attribute" to the city since it was built and he's sad to see it go.

However, he sees the move as a positive in the long term with bigger, better footbridges promised as part of the Valley Line and the new Walterdale Bridge.

"I think the key thing is that we don't see this as the end of something. It's rather the transition to the beginning of something else," he said.

"In the interim, in order to gain those improvements to our city, we have to make some sacrifices."

KEVIN MAIMANN/METRO

In December 2015, the first group of Syrian refugees arrived at the Edmonton International Airport to start a new life. Tahani and Heba were some of the first of about 1,500 Syrians who have settled in the city.

Since then, there have been successes and challenges, but one year marks when many federal supports run out for government-sponsored refugees. It's also when private groups are no longer legally required to financially support those they've sponsored.

For many refugees in Edmonton, the question is: What now?

Tahani arrived last December after fleeing Qatana, Syria, and a refugee camp in Lebanon. She is jointly sponsored — private individuals helped cover her costs for her first six months in Canada while the government has covered the remaining six months.

"My life in the refugee camp was so bad," she said, through a translator. "We didn't have money and we had nothing to do, so it was so difficult. There

"I want to learn so I can find a job. I would like to work in a daycare." **Tahani Al Kadri**

were no schools, no jobs."

But the Syria she remembers wasn't in ruins. Her collections of photos show a vibrant place: Markets lined with yellow, orange and purple fruits, and smiling dancers draped in red, silky garments.

"We had a good life back home before things got bad, but it was also difficult to adapt to Canadian culture," she said.

"But I'm always thinking, 'What has happened to my mother? What's happened to my father?'"

Edmonton is a different place, she said. It's colder, but gives her children — Talal, Mamdouh and Maya — opportunities to thrive in school and make friends.

"I like math," Maya said, as

Metro chatted with her mom. "People at school are nice."

Once Tahani's current funding from the federal government expires, she will have to rely on work, other government social programs, or non-governmental agencies to make ends meet.

Tahani acknowledges her daughter's English is better than hers, and understands learning the language will be key for employment.

"It's difficult to learn the language because I don't have many friends who are always speaking it," she said. "But I want to learn so I can find a job. I would like to work in a daycare."

Tahani said she would also like her parents to move to Canada someday. She said they're still in Syria, while her brother is in France.

"That would make me more happy, more excited," she said. "We love Canada."

Tomorrow, in part two of this series, Metro examines the barriers to learning English, a necessity for Syrian refugees to find jobs in Canada.

Reconciliation zine marks anniversary

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Group says they plan to publish more issues in coming months

Sarah Hoyle
For Metro | Edmonton

Sara Komarnisky is publishing a zine about reconciliation to advance the conversation in Edmonton.

The 40-page DIY publication, launched earlier this month at an event at city hall, features multimedia articles, poems and reflections created by more than 40 Edmontonians all answering the question "What is Reconciliation to you?"

"We wanted it to be the kind of space that people submitting could make it what they wanted it to be," said Komarnisky. "We want to see people taking

action towards reconciliation in their everyday lives. And taking it up for themselves."

The launch of the zine marks the one-year anniversary of the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's final report.

In the report's executive summary there are 54 different definitions of reconciliation outlined and the zine is meant to continue discussion of those.

The self-published magazine is one of several projects from the group Reconciliation in Solidarity Edmonton (RISE).

The grassroots nature of a zine fits well with how RISE sees the reconciliation process, said Komarnisky.

Miranda Jimmy, a co-founder of the RISE project and a candidate for city council in 2017, said like all the RISE projects, the zine is for everyone.

"People can overwhelmed by the mountain that reconciliation is," Jimmy, who is indigenous, said.



Sara Komarnisky, left, with Andrea Levey, co-chair of RISE.
KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

"But one step at a time keeps the conversation moving forward. If you really commit to the idea of reconciliation it's not limited to residential schools, it's not limited to in-

digenous experience. It's all of us individually living in this space together."

Jimmy said RISE plans to publish more zine issues in the coming months.

INVESTIGATION

Father and two sons found dead in home

Corry MacDougall took his two sons to their hockey games, and coaches say nothing seemed amiss, the day before the three were found dead in an apparent double murder-suicide in their home west of Edmonton.

Radek, 11, was on the ice with the Spruce Grove Sabertooths peewee team early Sunday and was disappointed the concession wasn't yet open so he could buy a big bag of Double Bubble gum that he often passed around to teammates, says coach Brendan Ardon. His big brother, 13-year-old Ryder, played Sunday night with the city's bantam AA Timberwolves and was benched for part of the second period after a penalty.

Coach Dallas Ansell says the quiet and loyal defenceman had improved over the season and was coming out of his shell and cracking jokes.

The two coaches and other hockey officials, along with a pastor and a chaplain, gathered with players in an arena room Monday after learning the boys had been killed. There were lots of tears, added Ardon.

"It's a pretty hard pill to swallow as an adult, let alone when



Ryder and Radek MacDougall. CONTRIBUTED

it's a kid and your friend has passed away for no reason," he said. "It doesn't make sense."

RCMP said three bodies were discovered in a home in Spruce Grove early Monday and that officers were not looking for any suspects.

The boys' stepfather, Brent Stark, told local media that he and his wife, Tracy, made the discovery when they arrived to pick up the children. Stark, owner of the Whitecourt Wolverines of the Alberta Junior Hockey League, said the boys had been killed by their father, and called him a coward.

A memorial in the snow outside the house included hockey sticks, teddy bears and notes for the family. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Trudeau says he's willing to take on Trump

POLITICS

PM will defend our values if new president goes too far

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says he would not hesitate to protect the interests — and the values — of Canadians if they clash with the agenda of U.S. president-elect Donald Trump.

In a year-end interview, Trudeau was asked where he would draw a line in the sand between himself and Trump, who promises to be a less-than-ordinary president of the world's only superpower and Canada's most important trading partner.



Justin Trudeau tours a tugboat in Vancouver Harbour on Tuesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

"I do not want to dive into the hypothetical, but you're asking me, 'Where is the line?' The line, for me, is that I will act in a way that ensures that Canadians do not suffer and have all the benefits and opportunities that I can possibly give them," he said.

Trudeau said his top responsibility is to serve the interests of the country that elected him.

That means creating good jobs, fostering trade with the United States and settling differences with Canada's largest

trading partner; but it goes beyond the economy.

"It is also in the interest of Canadians to have a more open, more tolerant, more secure world," he said.

There are different ways to "protect and improve" opportunities and results for Canadians, which is something he said applies not only to Trump.

"In certain situations, it's to work in a very collaborative way. In other situations, it will be to be very clear that we do not share the same values," he said.

Trudeau studiously avoided comment on Trump's campaign pronouncements and has continued to be circumspect since Trump won the Nov. 8 election.

Still, Trudeau dismissed the suggestion that the mass deportation of Mexicans in the U.S. illegally would not affect Canadians.

"We are in a world that is getting smaller and smaller in many aspects," he said.

Foreign Affairs Minister Stephane Dion said it was important for the Liberal government to avoid commenting on the Trump campaign because it has put Canada in a good position to have a "constructive" and "instructive" relationship with the incoming administration.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Crew members from the Philippines talk as volunteers deliver food, supplies and gifts to the stranded crew of the Hanjin Scarlet container ship on Tuesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Stranded crew gets some holiday cheer

The stranded crew of an empty container ship tied up in an international bankruptcy issue received a shipment of donated holiday cheer Tuesday, including a Christmas tree, a 20-kilogram pig and 90 kilograms of barbecue coals.

Several maritime labour groups and members of Victoria's Filipino community gathered up more than a tonne of Christmas provisions for the 16-member crew of the 255-metre Hanjin Scarlet, anchored off Saturna Island, about 70 kilometres northeast of Victoria.

"It's lonely," said sailor Romeo Cabacang from the

Philippines. "But all the crew, we are very happy for the early Christmas gift. We are very happy."

Cabacang, 40, who is married with two children in Manila, said he's been on board the ship for 10 months, but doesn't know when that will change.

The South Korean and Filipino crew members have been technically homeless at sea since August, anchoring for months at a time outside

Prince Rupert, Vancouver and the Southern Gulf Islands. They are being paid, but say they can't afford to leave the ship and their jobs.

The ship's captain, Jaewon Lee from South Korea, said his crew is in good shape and is patiently awaiting the bankruptcy issues to be resolved.

He said the crew is not going to shore because they need their rest and want to save money.

"Everybody well. Nothing problem," Lee said in broken

English. He added the ship has a solid Internet connection, which allows his crew to stay in touch with their families.

Lee said he expects the crew to roast the pig on Christmas Eve.

The crew cheerfully helped unload the donated goods onto wood pallets which were then hoisted on deck with cargo nets and a crane.

Steve Hnatko, who represents a Vancouver area shipping service, said the longshore workers, ferry workers and other maritime labour groups gathered donations and delivered the goods from Vancouver and Victoria. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Group challenges pipeline over killer whales

Conservation groups have filed a new court challenge to the federal government's approval of the Trans Mountain oil pipeline.

The request for judicial review filed with the Federal Court of Appeal late Monday in Calgary is at least the eighth legal test of the controversial project, which will almost triple the capacity of an existing, 1,150-kilometre pipeline from near Edmonton to Burnaby, B.C.

The Liberal government gave the green light to the \$6.8-billion pipeline expansion late last month, despite a thicket of existing legal challenges to the regulatory process.

Ecojustice lawyers, on behalf of the Living Oceans Society and Raincoast Conservation, say Prime Minister Justin Trudea



Eco-activist groups are arguing that the Liberal government didn't take into account the Trans Mountain pipeline's impact on endangered killer whales. ELAINE THOMPSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

deau's cabinet broke the law when it relied on a National Energy Board assessment of Kinder Morgan's controversial pipeline expansion.

The groups argue the board

overturn the government's unlawful approval and send it back to cabinet with instructions that it has to meet all the legal requirements," Ecojustice lawyer Dyna Tuytel said in a release.

Studies by the Raincoast Conservation Foundation suggest the whale population is severely stressed by a variety of factors, including shipping noise that disrupts the whales' ability to locate prey and communicate during the hunt.

Biologist Paul Paquet, the foundation's senior science adviser, said the increased tanker traffic not only increases the likelihood of oil spills, but will further compromise the killer whales' ability to feed due to additional, cumulative ship noise. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Recognize those with the cameras

Eduardo Lima
Metro | Toronto

There's a lot I'll never know about the photographers who captured the assassination of Russian Ambassador Andrei Karlov.

I don't know how brave they are, and I can't imagine what went through their minds as Mevlut Mert Altintas opened fire at a run-of-the-mill press event.

What I do know is this: Bravery is not the only factor involved in being able to take pictures in an unexpected situation. It's also professionalism.

The settings on their cameras were perfect. The framing is almost cinematic. And they didn't flinch even once. Standing less than five metres away from a man who could have taken their lives, Burhan Ozbilici and Yavuz Alatan held their ground and did their jobs.

As photographers, we love taking pictures and as photo-journalists, we relish the opportunity to record history. There's an invisible switch that photographers flip once a camera is in our hands. It makes us aware of everything around us and it makes us eager to climb trees, jump fences, lay flat on our stomachs, just for the sake of a picture.

Ozbilici and Alatan will both be likely candidates to win a prize from the World Press Photo Foundation next year. But, beyond that, they drew attention this week to the thousands of photographers who've dedicated their lives to making the pictures that make history.

Bravery aside, their excellence deserves our recognition.

Eduardo Lima is Metro Toronto's chief photographer. He has worked on projects in Southeast Asia, Africa and the Middle East and won multiple awards for his work.



Members of the Turkish forces honour guard carry the coffin of Russian Ambassador to Turkey, Andrei Karlov, who was assassinated Monday. EMRAH GUREL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Assassination could bring nations closer

DIPLOMACY

Russia, Turkey could see age of co-operation

The assassination of Russia's ambassador to Turkey could actually bring the two regional powers closer together, with Russia reaping political benefits by arguing that it has paid a high price for fighting terrorism as Turkey, embarrassed by its security breaches, increasingly coordinates with Russia in neighbouring Syria.

The two nations were already trying to resolve their differences

over the war in Syria since Turkey shot down a Russian military jet along the Syrian border last year.

The measured reactions of their leaders to the killing Monday night of Ambassador Andrei Karlov by a Turkish policeman in Ankara shows they want to stay on the path toward reconciliation.

The prospect of closer ties between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkish President Recep

Tayyip Erdogan could have implications for the West, which has had contentious relations with both leaders and is also trying to engineer a solution to the Syrian war and the millions of refugees it has created.

While both Russia and Turkey are involved in Syria, Russia is the senior partner in any deal-making in a conflict that has sent several million refugees across the border into Turkey, straining its resources and economy.

Moscow will undoubtedly milk the opportunity.

Dimitar Bechev

Analyst Dimitar Bechev said Russia could now have additional leverage and extract concessions from Turkey, including on Syrian issues, following the ambassador's death.

"No doubt, in public, Russia will second whatever explanation the Turks produce to account for the attack. In private, however, there will be a price tag," Bechev wrote on a blog run by the London School of Economics and Political Science.

"Moscow has the higher ground and will undoubtedly milk the opportunity to the best of its abilities," he wrote.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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CHINA

Canadian beauty queen won't be silenced

Anastasia Lin says when she first learned about allegations the Chinese government was harvesting organs from religious prisoners to fuel its transplant industry, she decided to use an unconventional platform to raise awareness.

Lin spoke out about the alleged plight of Falun Gong practitioners in China while taking part in the 2015 Miss World Canada beauty pageant, which she won. Since then, she has become an outspoken critic of the Chinese government.

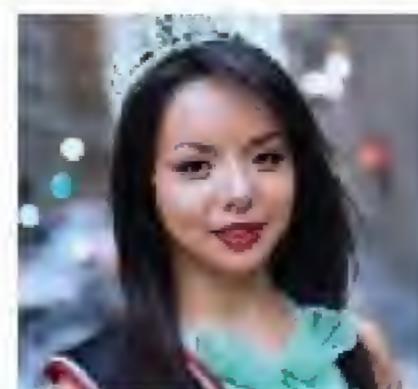
"To not do anything is just so wrong," said Lin, 26, who is based in Toronto but spent her teenage years in Vancouver after emigrating from China with her mother.

Public pressure works. We

have way more leverage than we think we do," she said. "We might think that China is this big, tough bully that just doesn't listen to anyone. But that's not true."

Falun Gong is a spiritual practice that emerged in China in the early 1990s, but by the end of the decade it had prompted a crackdown by the Chinese Communist Party. Falun Gong spokesman Joel Chikpar alleges the persecution was prompted by the organization's unwillingness to cede control to the Chinese government.

Reports from human rights organizations such as Amnesty International have emerged of thousands of imprisoned Falun Gong followers being executed for their body organs.



Anastasia Lin TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ried to former federal attorney general Peter MacKay.

In 2015, Lin was declared persona non grata by the Chinese government and barred from entering China when she tried to travel there to represent Canada in that year's Miss World pageant.

Miss World 2016 took place in Washington, D.C., and this year Lin was able to take part.

"My one goal was not the title," Lin said. "I just wanted to be on Chinese television. ... If they can see me on stage they will know [I have not given up], so neither should they."

She also wanted to be seen by her father, who she said has been barred from leaving China because of her activism.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MEXICO

29 dead in blast

An explosion ripped through Mexico's best-known fireworks market on the northern outskirts of the capital Tuesday, killing at least 29 people, injuring scores more and sending a huge plume of charcoal-grey smoke billowing into the sky.

Police announced the toll from the afternoon blast at the open-air San Pablito Market in Tultepec.

"My condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in this accident and my wishes for a quick recovery for the injured," said President Enrique Pena Nieto via Twitter.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BERLIN

Daesh claims truck attack

Daesh claimed responsibility Tuesday for a truck attack on a crowded Berlin Christmas market that German authorities said came right out of the extremist group's playbook, inflicting mass casualties on a soft target fraught with symbolic meaning.

The Monday night attack on the market by the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church in the heart of former West Berlin left 12 dead and 48 injured. German security forces were still hunting for the perpetrator.

The claim of responsibility carried on Daesh's Amaq news agency described the man seen fleeing from the truck as "a soldier" of Daesh who "carried out the attack in response to calls for targeting citizens of the Crusader coalition."

Prosecutors said they had released a man picked up near the scene of the attack, initially suspected of driving the truck.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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NORTH OF EXTRAORDINARY

MERGER

Facebook accused of misleading watchdog

The European Commission is investigating whether Facebook gave misleading information about its takeover of mobile messaging service WhatsApp two years ago.

The Commission, the EU's merger and anti-trust watchdog, is concerned that Facebook can match its users' accounts with WhatsApp user accounts. The company said in 2014 that it could not do this. But Facebook's August terms of service and privacy update

suggest it can, according to the Commission.

"The Commission's preliminary view is that Facebook gave us incorrect or misleading information during the investigation into its acquisition of WhatsApp. Facebook now has the opportunity to respond," EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager said.

Facebook could face fines of up to 1 per cent of its turnover if those suspicions are confirmed.

In a statement, Facebook said it respects the Commissioner's process and is "confident that a full review of the facts will confirm Facebook has acted in good faith."

"We've consistently provided accurate information about our technical capabilities and plans, including in submissions about the WhatsApp acquisition and in voluntary briefings before WhatsApp's privacy policy update this year," Facebook said.

The August update could allow a link-up between WhatsApp phone numbers and Facebook user identities, which could help Facebook offer better "friend" suggestions or display more relevant ads on the Facebook page of a WhatsApp user.

Such EU probes do not imply guilt, but they give companies the chance to examine relevant documents, reply in writing, or request an oral hearing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



BlackBerry has reached deals with partners who will design, manufacture and distribute phones that use BlackBerry's software in most of the world. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

BlackBerry's head hails shift in focus

TECHNOLOGY

Most revenue now comes from software and services

and on Monday it opened a research centre for autonomous cars in Ottawa.

It has also announced a new platform, BlackBerry Secure, that integrates all of the company's recent acquisitions and intends to help companies reliably manage their current and future connectivity needs, like keeping tabs on all their devices.

Still, the transformation has yet to eliminate BlackBerry's losses before adjustments.

BlackBerry, which reports in U.S. dollars, says its latest quarterly loss amounted to 22 cents per share. That compared with a loss of \$89 million or 17 cents per share a year ago.

Revenue was \$289 million, down from \$548 million a year earlier. With adjustments, revenue for the quarter was \$301 million.

The majority of adjusted revenue — about 55 per cent — came from BlackBerry's new focus of software and services, which brought in \$164 million, an increase of \$8 million from the previous quarter and \$10 million from the same quarter last year.

It wasn't enough to offset declines in other areas. But Chen remains confident the company's new focus will pay off, anticipating 30 per cent growth in software and services for the full financial year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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**We believe we
can do a little
better than that.**
John Chen

Your essential daily news

Wednesday, December 21, 2016

JESSICA ALLEN ON SILVER-SCREEN ESCAPISM



My Christmas tree lights conked out the other night. They were a multi-coloured set that cast a soft, foggy glow, like the tree lights from my childhood, probably because they are literally the tree lights from my childhood. I can't bring myself to replace them with those new, garishly bright (and safer) LED lights. So the tree sits in darkness.

This all goes to say that I know a thing or two about nostalgia. Yes, I take it too seriously, which is why I am sensitive to others using my weakness to emotionally manipulate me. For example: Stranger Things, the thrilling sci-fi Netflix series set in the '80s that provided a quick fix of that decade's greatest cultural hits. But when the buzz wore off, it felt a little superficial — like high-end audio equipment that's deliberately designed to look like a radio from the '20s. That's nostalgia in a nutshell: It makes you melancholy for a time you'll never get back, or even for a time you didn't exist in.

And now there's La La Land, which opens on Christmas Day, to contend with. Even if you don't follow award blogs, you know that the film, written and directed by Damien Chazelle, is — alongside Moonlight and Manchester By the Sea — an Oscar contender for best picture. But when the masses tell me I'm going to love

The whole Manichean world of comics was a response to the same social conditions that gave us Busby Berkeley.

I know a thing or two about nostalgia and I am sensitive to others using my weakness to emotionally manipulate me.

something, my knee-jerk reaction is to hate it.

"Though bathed in affection for the song-and-dance magic of vintage Hollywood," Brian D. Johnson of Maclean's recently wrote, "it has a keen contemporary edge. As both a musical and rom-com, La La Land subverts as many conventions as it

I successfully willed myself to hate La La Land for approximately 30 seconds, when I looked down and saw my feet tapping to the music. And although I was distracted by the overly produced dubbing during the big group musical numbers, not to mention Gosling having at least one hand in his pocket



Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone in a scene from La La Land.
LEONSGATE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

fetishizes, while wrapping its love story around the frustration of two artists holding out for truth and beauty amid a showbiz world enslaved to money."

"We'll see about that, Brian," I thought to myself just before a recent screening of the film. I stewed in my seat thinking about all the ways it would cheapen my love for the classic films I knew it would reference. Like Bringing up Baby and Casablanca, which were both shot on the Warner Bros. lot where Mia (Emma Stone), an aspiring actress, works as a barista. Ryan Gosling plays Sebastian, a struggling musician who dreams of preserving the great American art of jazz. He introduces Mia, who equates jazz to Kenny G, to the artistry of Kenny Clark, among others.

at all times — even when he's playing the piano — I liked it. It was magical, like everyone said it would be, and the unexpected ending is seeped in ennui, just like my Christmas tree lights.

And here's the thing: I did feel manipulated, but somehow, with the cinema lights low, I didn't mind La La Land taking the lead in transporting me far away from the cynicism of 2016.

Chazelle is not clairvoyant: He's been trying to get La La Land made for five years, so the timing of its release this year, which by most accounts has been awful, is coincidental. But it's telling he that he mined vintage Hollywood to soothe a culture desperate to escape.

The genius of Hollywood filmmakers in the '30s was that they found beautiful

ways to offer escape from the reality of the Depression and the rise of fascism. Audiences were enchanted by Fred and Ginger, and Shirley Temple, while socially realistic movies, like Charlie Chaplin's City Lights and Modern Times, made them smile despite the darkness.

For the last decade, the dominant form of escape has been the superhero-super-effects-big-budget-CGI extravaganza. They don't bear much resemblance to an angel-faced child singing about the good ship Lolly Pop, but Superman, Batman and the whole Manichean world of action comics was a response to the same social conditions that gave birth to Busby Berkeley's spinning stages.

Our world — in which a literal super villain stirs up hatred on Twitter from a fortress of solitude in Gotham City while he waits to take the highest office in the land — may be no less complicated. In fact, our purveyors of escape might have to work harder.

"During the Depression, when the spirit of the people is lower than at any other time," President Franklin Roosevelt said in 1934, "it is a splendid thing that for just 15 cents an American can go to a movie and look at the smiling face of a baby and forget his troubles."

The ticket price is higher 82 years later. But I think the sentiment is the same, especially on Christmas Day when so many go see a movie to escape everything from their credit card statements to racist Uncle Gary who's staying for the holidays.

The lights go down, and it's magic.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

VICKY MOCHAMA

Trump politics aren't coming to Canada — they're already here



Donald Trump is already in Canada, and he can be found in the heart and minds of Canadians. There's a tendency to think that Canada is safe from such phenomena. But based on the attitudes of Canadians, not only are we not free from it but also we're susceptible.

In Canada, the xenophobic and racist attitudes that propelled Trump aren't far beneath our "sunny ways" and "refugees welcome" surface.

Forum Research released a survey which found that of 1,304 Canadians, 41 per cent have an "unfavourable" feeling about one of the following groups: Muslims, First Nations, South Asians, Jews and black people. The use of the word "unfavourable" even feels like a way to shield racism, as if the KKK were merely an organ of unfavourable opinion.

Racist attitudes though aren't just hidden in seemingly innocuous phrasing, they're evident in what is perceived to be true. An exhaustive poll of global attitudes found that Canadians think that Muslims constitute 18 per cent of our population when, in fact, they're only three per cent of the country. Despite our progressive and multicultural self-image, Canadians vastly overestimate the population of Muslims. For example, Canadians think that in 2020 a full 26 per cent of the country will be Muslim when the population is expected to stay about the same as now. This notion of a vast-yet-ultimately-mythical population is what politicians of the Trump-fatigued ilk rely on.

A CBC-Angus Reid poll found that 68 per cent of respondents felt that minorities should be doing more to fit in with mainstream society instead of keeping their own customs and values. In this, we are no better than our American neighbours. When the same questions was put to Americans, only 53 per cent felt the same way.

There is no question that racists in Canada have been emboldened by the events in the U.S. Racialized citizens across the country have been sharing their own stories of being attacked based on their (perceived) race. Last week, our colleague Irene Kuan shared how a man on the subway told her to "go back to Hong Kong." She is from Toronto. The question is how do we prevent racial resentments from upsetting our democracy? Our institutions — schools, police, media, etc. — must acknowledge that they help perpetuate those attitudes. (Why does my industry only report the race of criminals when they are not white?)

Finally, white Canadians, including ethnic whites, need to publicly speak about their privileges and challenges. Racism thrives on asking non-whites to prove and adapt to their oppression while requiring little labour from those who most benefit.

Racism — overt and covert — remains pervasive. These surveys are proof of our past, but the attitudes found within need not be our future.

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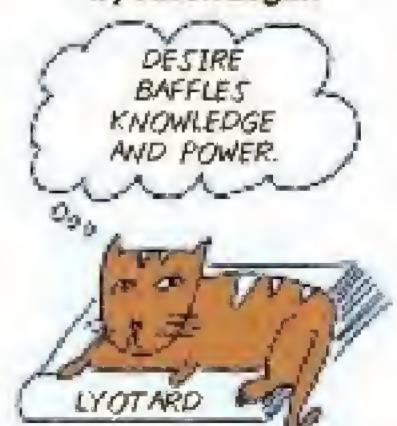
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Mulled wine and hot chocolate: Better together or a sludgy mess?

Some things just go together: Caramel and salt, tomato and oregano, and, according to this season's latest food fad, red wine and hot chocolate. But does this best-of-both-worlds beverage deserve its social-media star status? We enter our test kitchen to find out.

GENNA BUCK/METRO

Armed with half a pound of chocolate, a bottle of red wine, and three colleagues as guinea pigs, the Metro Life staff set out to mix up our own version of 2016's trendy holiday drink: red wine hot chocolate.

It's exactly what it sounds like — a combination of two beloved winter warmers which, for some reason, no one thought to put together before now. By the end of our experiment, we had a better idea of why.

First, we mulled two cups of red wine (Hardy's Shiraz Cabernet Sauvignon) with two heaping teaspoons of sugar, a few orange slices and a handful of spices — cinnamon sticks, freshly grated nutmeg, juniper, star anise and ancho chili.

In another pot, we heated a litre of two-per-cent milk to steaming and slowly stirred in 200g of chopped dark chocolate (70 per cent cocoa).



Once both were piping hot, we strained the wine into the chocolate mixture. And that's when things started to go a little sideways.

No matter how much we stirred and sieved, the chocolate never fully melted, leaving us a drink with a curdled, chalky texture and a bracing, acidic taste: not exactly luxuri-

ous. Though, according to our section editor Emina Gamulin, "It grows on you."

We agreed the beverage would be better with a sweet milk chocolate, and a lot less of it. In a moment of inspiration, we added a healthy glug of whipping cream to one of the mugs and zapped it in the microwave. That tasted more like something we'd want to drink in front of a roaring fire.

As the Instagrammers say, this treat is #sorich, but if you'd like to gild the lily, whipped cream or marshmallows would be an ultimate garnish. And it's the holidays, so why not both?



Metro Life's Emina Gamulin and Genna Buck made the drink that's been praised by food bloggers, Instagrammers — even the New York Times and Cosmo mag. METRO

INITIAL THOUGHTS

VERDICT

Vicky Mochama

Metro's daily columnist was intrigued. "Is this what the kids on Instagram are drinking?"



Not impressed.

"It has a porridge-like consistency."

Luke Simcoe

Our senior reporter turned down whipped cream and marshmallows: "Nothing you put on this is going to make me like it more."



"Wine and milk, together at last? That's just not a thing people say."

May Warren

Metro's city reporter is an adventurous eater. "I'm excited," she said before our taste test.



May pulled a pained face and said, "so disappointing."

TECHNOLOGY

Paws for a selfie #WiskersOnFleek

Kris Abel
For Metro Canada

Among cats, it's curiosity that leads to the best selfies.

That's according to the makers of Candid Catméra, an iPhone and iPad app that uses virtual fish, mice, and laser pointers and others treats to entice your feline to come play in front of your mobile device.

"I like the one with the can-opener, opening up the can of food," says Jen Mete, the Halifax-based producer who worked on the app for Current Studios.

Getting a cat to stand in front of the lens is one thing, but in order to make sure the camera catches them when they're looking the right way, the app uses very sophisticated software.

"We affectionately refer to

it as feline facial recognition," explains Mete. "It automatically takes a series of photos and analyzes the characteristics of the subject and only saves the ones of your cat to the gallery."

So you can take a selfie with your cat, for example, but your cat has to always be in the shot. It's a cat-only app.

"Like if I put my face up to it, it might take a photo, but it won't save the photo because after it goes into the cat recognition filter, it'll decide that I am not a cat," explains Mete.

It's not just the need for pointed ears and whiskers, the software is built to recognize fur on faces too, but again, only feline ones.

"People ask 'Why don't we do it for dogs?' well, actually it's a little trickier because dogs all have very different characteristics," says Mete, "but whereas

GET SNAPPING

- The app costs \$2.79, available at candidcatmera.com
- \$1 of each app sold will go to the SPCA, whose cats helped test the technology
- If you download it, share your cat selfies with us at scene@metronews.ca

Cats all have fairly similar characteristics, so that really helped while building up our database of traits to track."

Once the app is running on your device, the app will snap cat selfies even if you're not home and send them to your phone for approval and sharing on social media.

For every copy of the app sold,

\$1 goes to the SPCA whose cats helped test the technology.

"We spent a couple of days with them, testing out the app, and what I found pretty exciting is that they actually enjoyed playing with the app," says Mete. "I'm a huge advocate for animal welfare and it hits me on both sides."

Launched in time for the holidays, the creators are looking forward to seeing what people do with it. Asked if the feline facial recognition system might have trouble with costumes Mete is confident the app will still work.

"As long as they don't cover the face, if they put a costume on their cat, a hotdog or a unicorn or something, as long as the app can still see the characteristics of their face, it should be fine."

CAT SELFIE GALLERY AT METRONEWS.CA



Candid Catméra is an app that entices cats to play on an iPad, then takes a selfie of the pet. If the owner is not home, the app will send them a pic. CONTRIBUTED



JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Stewart's stairway to holiday heaven

THE SHOW: It's a Wonderful Life
THE MOMENT: The staircase embrace

George Bailey (James Stewart) has just returned from seeing how bleak a George-less existence would look. He bursts into his ramshackle house and spies his children at the top of the staircase.

"Kids!" he bellows, and though it's only one word, you would know in the dark that the voice was Jimmy Stewart's. He starts up the steps. The newel post comes off in his hand. That once frustrated him. This time he kisses it.

His long legs take three stairs at a time, so he appears to fly upward. A second later he jogs back down, covered in children, emitting a small, staccato giggle as he goes.

Look, we all know the rap on this movie, which turned 70 yesterday. It was Stewart's first picture after five years away, including 20 months on the Second World War's front lines, and (according to the new book *Mission: Jimmy Stewart and the Fight for Europe*) he was suffering from PTSD. Many critics see it as a soppy panacea, a coating of treacle to disguise George's — and by extension, our — bitter disappointments.

Yes, but so what? I think most people end up living smaller lives than the ones



George Bailey's iconic staircase embrace. CONTRIBUTED

they dream of. I think we get some of what we want and learn to live without the rest.

What matters to me is that every time I hear that "Kids!" followed by that giggle — and I've heard it at least 40 times — my heart thumps. It's one of the trustiest, truest movie

moments I know.

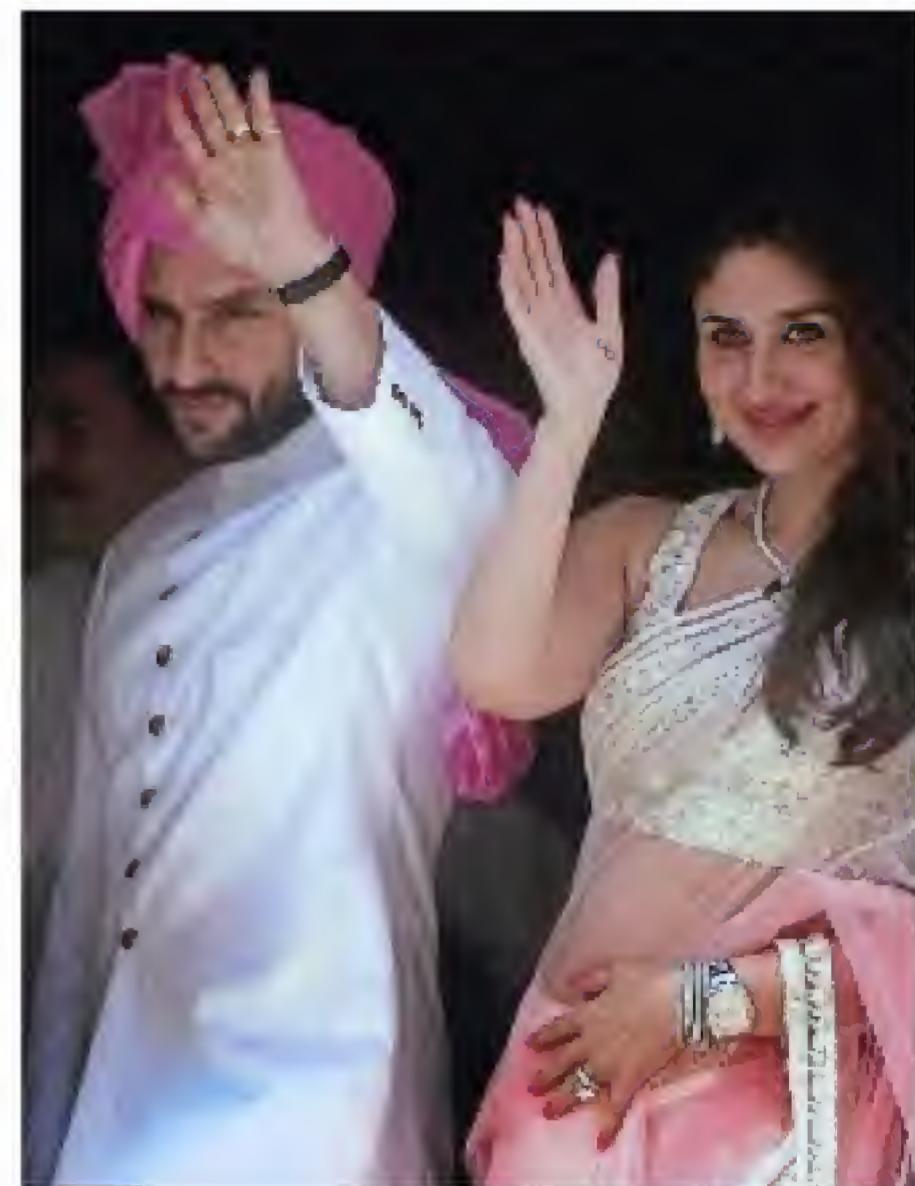
It's a Wonderful Life airs Christmas Eve at 8 p.m. on CTV as well as other channels.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

OH BOY BABY JOY FOR FIRST COUPLE OF BOLLYWOOD

Popular Bollywood couple Kareena Kapoor Khan and Saif Ali Khan say they have been blessed with a baby boy. The couple (pictured here at a wedding last year) announced the birth of their son in a Mumbai hospital in a tweet Tuesday. While Taimur Ali Khan Pataudi is the first child of 36-year-old Kareena Kapoor Khan, 46-year-old Saif Ali Khan already has a son and a daughter from a previous marriage. The couple belong to prominent Bollywood families. Kareena Kapoor Khan's father, Randhir Kapoor, grandfather Raj Kapoor and great-grandfather Prithviraj Kapoor were all well-known actors, producers or directors. Saif Ali Khan's mother, Sharmila Tagore, was a popular film actress in the 1970s and '80s. His father, Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi, was a former Indian cricket captain.

STRDEL/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



GOSSIP

Did Robbie just get married?

Margot Robbie has responded to wedding rumours by giving the finger on Instagram — the ring finger, that is.

The actress posted a picture of a big diamond on her extended ring finger on the photo-sharing platform Monday.

She also appeared to be wearing a white dress in the picture, which shows her kissing a bearded man.

Several British tabloids have

reported that the 26-year-old Robbie married director Tom Ackerley over the weekend in her native Australia.

Robbie's representatives didn't immediately respond to a request for comment on the reports from The Associated Press.

Former soap opera star Robbie is best known for her roles in *The Wolf of Wall Street* and *Suicide Squad*.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



INSTAGRAM

SCHUMER SPLASHES OUT

Comedian buys former family farm for father

Amy Schumer has given her father an early holiday gift by buying back the farm her family once owned.

Schumer posted a screengrab on Instagram on Monday of her delivering the news to her father on a video call. She also posted a video of herself as

a child walking through a cornfield on the farm. She added in the caption, "We lost the farm when we lost everything else. But today I got to buy it back for him."

Schumer didn't say where the farm is located.

The comedian told The New York Times in 2013 that her family went bankrupt when she was 9.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Amy Schumer was feeling generous. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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Your essential daily news

Kia's dedicated hybrid sets Guinness World Record for fuel mileage



Strong enough for most jobs



THE CHECKLIST | 2017 HONDA RIDGELINE

THE BASICS

Engine: 3.5L V6
Power: 280 hp and 262 lb-ft of torque
Transmission: Six-speed automatic
Fuel Economy: 12.8 L/100 km city, 9.5 L/100 km highway, 11.3 L/100 km combined
Price: Starts at \$36,590 (destination included)



LOVE IT

- Stable dynamics with weight
- Great unladen drive
- Handy features

LEAVE IT

- Lack of integrated trailer brake
- No tow/haul mode
- A little more power would be nice

REVIEW

Ridgeline's driving dynamics can't be beat

Stephen Elmer
AutoGuide.com

though it is the tow rating that falls short. Even if you're not pulling the limit every time you tow, having that extra capacity means that you're not stressing your truck as much when you pull.

So can the Ridgeline actually pull at its limit with confidence? We hitched up a large four-place snowmobile trailer that weighs in just shy of the Ridgeline's max capacity.

Easily the best part of the towing experience with the Ridgeline is the way the suspension soaks up all the weight with little issue. Despite the rear end squatting, the front wheels didn't feel light and the nose wasn't pointing straight up into the air. Side-to-side movement felt controlled, and even the trailer's weight couldn't push the truck around.

This translates into the cabin with nice, planted steering feel and little to no torque steer thanks in part to the all-wheel drive.

If the towing experience ended there, the Ridgeline would leave with a stellar report card. Unfortunately there are other parts of the package that are important as well, namely the brakes and the engine.

So it may not be the heavy lifter among its peers, but there is one aspect of the Ridgeline that is second to none: unladen driving dynamics. Thanks to a combination of factors including its unibody construction and independent suspension, the Ridgeline drives like a big Honda Accord on the road, offering absolutely none of the stiff, choppy ride most body-on-frame trucks have.

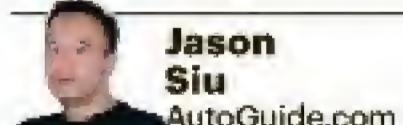
Honda rates the Ridgeline to tow 2,268 kg, falling short of the Toyota Tacoma's 3,084-kg max rating and the Chevy Colorado's max rating of 3,493 kg, though in the payload department, the Ridgeline stacks up well. It is the only midsize pickup to use a multi-link independent rear suspension, rather than a leaf spring setup.

Canadian Ridgelines get all-wheel drive as standard equipment.

Spec for spec, Honda's small pickup is about on par with the competition on most fronts,

NEW RELEASES

2018 Mercedes E-Class Coupe drops two doors to stunning effect



Mercedes-Benz has introduced the all-new 2018 E-Class Coupe ahead of its public appearance at the 2017 Detroit Auto Show.

Heading to dealerships in summer 2017, the 2018 Mercedes-Benz E-Class Coupe is longer, wider and taller than its predecessor.

The stylish coupe also sits 3.3 inches taller. As a result, the larger footprint benefits passengers with extra space and

comfort, especially in terms of rear legroom, front and rear shoulder room, as well as rear headroom.

For the U.S. market, the E-Class Coupe will initially launch with the E400 and E400 4MATIC models, powered by a 3.0-litre biturbo V6 engine with 329 horsepower and 354 pound-feet of torque.

Both models are equipped as standard with the 9G-Tronic nine-speed automatic transmission, allowing the standard model to go zero-to-97 km/h in 5.2 seconds.

The 4MATIC all-wheel-drive variant does the sprint in 5.5 seconds.

The model will come standard with a central high-resolution COMAND display, and available as an option is the widescreen instrument cluster that is unique to the segment.

Buyers can also opt for an available Sport Package that adds edgier details like front and rear bumpers, as well as side skirts and larger AMG-style wheels.

The package also includes a different front grille with

chrome-tipped blocks and an AMG leather sports steering wheel for the cabin.

And since the E-Class Coupe comes standard with COMAND Navigation, it is also compatible with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. Another highlight of the model is Drive Pilot, a system that represents Mercedes-Benz's next step to semi-autonomous driving. With Distance Pilot Distronic, the car is not only able to keep the correct distance behind vehicles in front on all types of road, but for the first time,



With its clear, aesthetic lines, our new E-Class Coupe appeals equally to the heart and mind.

Dr. Thomas Weber

it can also automatically follow them at a speed of up to 209 km/h.

Expect pricing for the 2018 Mercedes-Benz E-Class Coupe

to be announced closer to its launch in 2017.

"With its clear, aesthetic lines, our new E-Class Coupe appeals equally to the heart and mind," said Prof. Dr. Thomas Weber, member of the board of management of Daimler AG and responsible for group research and Mercedes-Benz cars development. "It combines contemporary luxury, agile sportiness and high-tech engineering into an automotive personality with spirit, offering exclusive, refined driving pleasure."

Ferrari's supercar surprise stunner



WHEELS ROUNDUP

News driving the auto industry brought to you by AutoGuide.com

FERRARI

Only 10 J50s will be built

Ferrari made a surprise debut of a new supercar to commemorate the brand's 50th anniversary in Japan. Only 10 Ferrari J50s will be built, with each unit being bespoke to each customer. The Ferrari J50 is a two-seat, mid-rear-engined roadster that pays homage to the targa top Ferraris of the 1970s and 1980s. The Ferrari J50 starts life as a 488 Spider but gets churned through Ferrari's Special Projects department to become a completely new car. The J50 is powered by a 3.9-litre V8 and gets all-new bodywork that is both very futuristic while still having details that pay homage to the Italian brand's past. The most immediate differences between the Ferrari J50 and the 488 are the new LED headlights, the new carbon fiber air channels in the hood, and a completely new front bumper design.

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LUCID MOTORS AIR

A head-turning debut

The Lucid Motors Air has debuted and it could be a real Tesla killer. Equipped with the largest battery pack in the automotive world, the Lucid Air has an optional 130-kWh battery to deliver an all-electric range of 643 kilometres. The company said a 100-kWh battery is standard but it's unclear what range that model offers. The aim of the new luxury sedan is to fill the luxury, sports and commuter needs of drivers with its electric motors combining to offer 1,000 horsepower and a 0 to 97 km/h time of just 2.5 seconds.

JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM



GOOGLE

Meet Waymo

Alphabet, the parent company of Google, is introducing an all-new brand, Waymo, which will be responsible for the outfit's self-driving cars. The new company will be headed by John Krafcik, the same man who has been in charge of Google's self-driving car arm since 2015. According to Krafcik, the simple aim of Waymo is "to make it safe and easy for people and things to move around."

STEPHEN ELMER/AUTOGUIDE.COM



Canadian juniors leaning on Chabot for leadership

HOCKEY

Blue-liner armed with recent NHL experience

Thomas Chabot is hopeful this visit to Canadian Tire Centre will go much better than his last one.

The 19-year-old will get a chance to impress the Ottawa Senators, his future employers, when Canada faces the Czech Republic on Wednesday night in an exhibition game in advance of the upcoming world junior hockey championship.

Chabot was selected 18th overall by the Senators in the 2015 NHL Entry Draft. He survived

the cuts out of training camp this season, but played just one regular-season game before he was sent back to the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League's Saint John Sea Dogs after the Senators felt he wasn't quite ready for the rigours of the NHL.

While disappointed by the Senators' decision, Chabot was determined to return to his junior team and make the most of his season. Chabot has five goals and 20 points through 14 games with the Sea Dogs, but what the Senators are most anxious to see is his performance on the world stage.

Chabot, named an alternate captain for Canada earlier this week, is the team's only returning defenceman and will be counted on to play significant minutes.

"You can't buy experience," said head coach Dominique Ducharme. "To have gone through this before helps you understand what needs to be done and where you need to go and we have five returning guys, but he's the only defenceman so that's an important piece for us."

Chabot has played so far alongside Philippe Myers, a member of the QMJHL's Rouyn-Noranda



Thomas Chabot is the only returning defenceman from last year's Canadian squad at the world juniors. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Huskies, and the two have found early chemistry.

"Defensively they're so mobile that they're right on top of guys and they don't give time and space," said Ducharme. "I like the way they work together

and to be playing against them you have to be pretty quick at taking space away from them."

Myers said he much prefers Chabot as a teammate than as an opponent.

"He's one of the best D's in the

league and it's a great honour to play with him," said Myers. "He's got great hockey sense, he's a great skater and put all that together and it makes a great hockey player."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

I think I grew a lot as a player and became a bit more of a pro player.

Thomas Chabot on his time with the Senators

“

In my attempt to defend myself, I was badly injured on my left hand. I am shaken, but fortunate to be alive," Kvitova wrote on Twitter.

"The injury is severe and I will need to see specialists, but if you know anything about me I am strong and I will fight this."

Police spokesman Frantisek Korinek said the male attacker escaped from the scene and was at large. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Nets can't catch Raps

NBA

DeRozan's off shooting night no problem vs. Brooklyn

Kyle Lowry scored 23 points to lift Toronto to a 116-104 win over the Brooklyn Nets on Monday, the Raptors' 12 victory in their last 14 appearances.

DeMar DeRozan, who was coming off Eastern Conference player of the week honours and leads the East in scoring, managed just 15 points on 6-of-20 shooting for Toronto (20-8).

But his teammates made up for his off night, as Norman Powell scored a season-high 21 points, DeMarre Carroll had 17, Jonas Valanciunas grabbed a game-high 14 rebounds to go with 10 points and Cory Joseph chipped in with 11 points as the Raptors roared to their 15th consecutive game with 100-plus points.

Rondae Hollis-Hefferson had 19 points to top the Nets (7-20), who played without starting centre Brook Lopez — he took the night off for rest.

TUESDAY In Toronto

116	104
RAPTORS	NETS

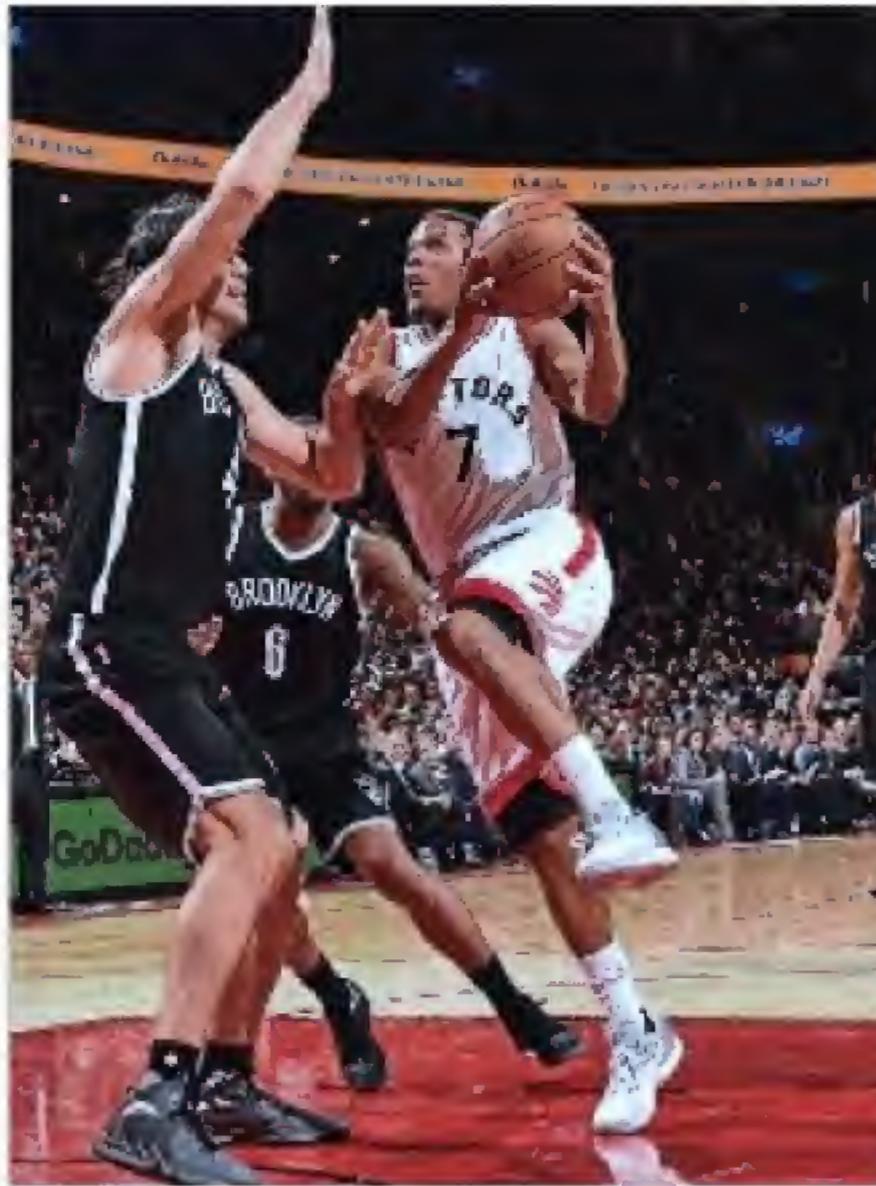
Making their final home appearance of 2016, the Raptors let the Nets hang around for the better part of the first half, but finally put some distance on Brooklyn with a 17-3 run to end the second quarter.

DeRozan struggled mightily in the third, missing all six of his shots, but Lowry and Carroll made up for it with their 14 points combined and the Raptors took a 91-72 lead into the fourth quarter.

Their big lead at least allowed DeRozan to rest the fourth quarter, while Lowry exited the game with six minutes left as the Raptors' staff manages the minutes of their two all-stars.

A three-pointer by Anthony Bennett, the Brampton, Ont., native and former Raptor, cut Toronto's lead to 16 points with 2:28 to play, but the game was already well in hand.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Kyle Lowry goes to the rim against the Nets on Tuesday at Air Canada Centre. RON TURENNE/NBAE VIA GETTY IMAGES

SOCCER

Real Madrid on roll heading into 2017

It's been nearly a decade since Real Madrid was this dominant heading into the halfway point of the season.

Not even in 2012-13, when it last won the Spanish league title.

With Cristiano Ronaldo at his best and Zinedine Zidane flourishing in his first full season as a head coach, Madrid looks closer than ever to ending its title drought in the league.

Madrid also had the lead after 16 matches in 2014-15, when it

had also won the Champions League and the Club World Cup. That team eventually collapsed under coach Carlo Ancelotti and ended the season in disappointment.

"We all know what happened in 2014 after we won the Club World Cup. It can happen at any moment," said Zidane, who had been an assistant to Ancelotti. "I think that the season will be long and difficult for us. If we work hard I don't think that things will change."

With two more games without a loss, Madrid will match Barcelona's Spanish record of 39 games unbeaten, a mark set last season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3

Real Madrid has a three-point lead on rival Barcelona with a game in hand going into the Christmas break.



Cristiano Ronaldo and Zinedine Zidane won the Club World Cup on Sunday in Yokohama, Japan.
GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Hernandez denied a delay to double-murder trial

Former New England Patriots star Aaron Hernandez has lost his bid to delay his trial in the 2012 killing of two men in Boston.

Prosecutors say a Suffolk Superior Court judge on Tuesday denied a request by Hernandez's lawyer to delay the trial slated to start Feb. 13.

Hernandez is already serving a life sentence for the 2013 killing of Odin Lloyd. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BoSox deal Buchholz to Phils

The Boston Red Sox have traded right-hander Clay Buchholz to the Philadelphia Phillies for minor-league second baseman Josh Tobias.

Buchholz was the odd man out in a Boston rotation

that added Chris Sale this off-season.

Buchholz, 32, is a two-time all-star but has been inconsistent through his career. He is 81-61 with a 3.96 ERA in 10 big-league seasons.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports community pays tribute to colourful Sager

Longtime TNT broadcaster Craig Sager was remembered for his love of family, sports and colourful attire at a memorial service Tuesday that produced laughs and tears.

Among those attending the service were San Antonio Spurs coach Gregg Popovich and members of Sager's Turner Sports TV family, including Ernie Johnson and Reggie Miller.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Abrams steps down as Alouettes assistant GM

Joey Abrams stepped down Tuesday as the Montreal Alouettes assistant general manager. Abrams spent 12 seasons with the Alouettes, the last year as assistant to former GM Jim Popp. His decision to leave comes after Montreal promoted Kavis Reed, an assistant coach the last two years, to the general manager's position. Reed is reportedly considering Joe Mack to be his assistant.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

England fall in India

England's losing tour of India ended in further failure on Tuesday when the tourists collapsed to an innings and 75-run loss in the fifth test in Chennai.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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7	1	3	5	6	2	9	8	4
8	9	2	7	4	1	3	5	6
4	6	5	8	3	9	2	7	1
6	2	1	3	5	4	8	9	7
5	3	7	9	8	6	4	1	2
9	8	4	2	1	7	5	6	3
3	4	9	1	7	8	6	2	5
1	5	8	6	2	3	7	4	9
2	7	6	4	9	5	1	3	8

MAKE IT TONIGHT

Jazzed-up Tuna Melt



Photo: NATA VASINA

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

You can prep the addictive ingredients of this jazzed-up tuna melt in the time it takes your oven to pre-heat.

Ready in 10 minutes

Prep time: 10 minutes
Serves 2

Ingredients

- 2 whole wheat pita breads
- 1 can tuna
- 1/3 cup diced Granny Smith apple
- 1/3 cup diced celery
- 1/8 cup diced cornichon or dill pickle
- 1 Tbsp mayonnaise
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 cup grated cheddar

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

2. In a large bowl, mix together the tuna, apple celery, pickle and mayo until it is well combined. Season with salt and pepper.

3. Spread mixture across pitas. Leave a small border around edge the way you do with pizza — it makes it easier to pick up and eat.

4. Sprinkle the cheese evenly across both pitas. Place the pitas on a baking sheet.

5. Pop in the hot oven for about 10 minutes until the cheese is completely melted and the edges of the pitas are toasty brown.

6. Remove from oven and cool for a couple of minutes before cutting each pita into quarters.

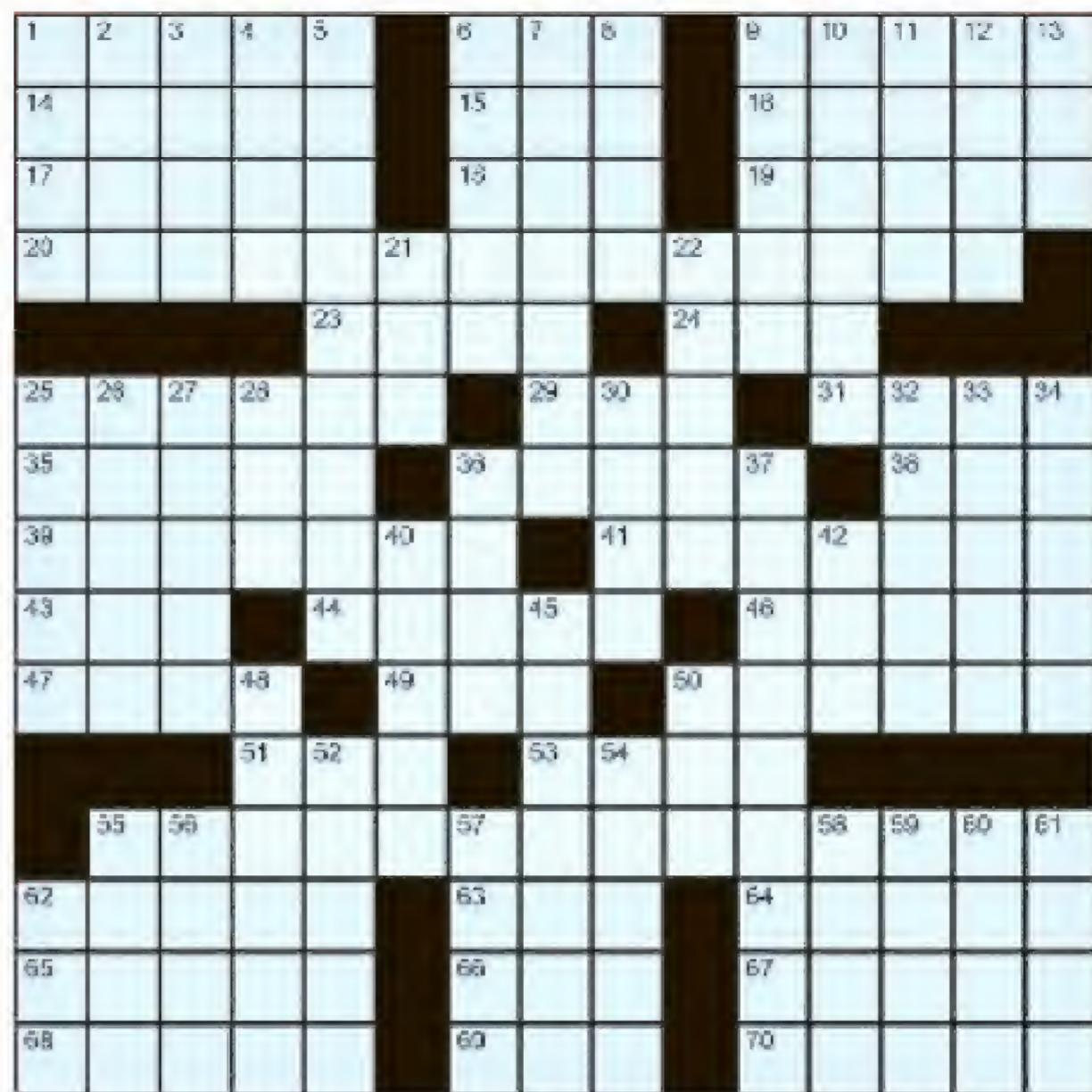
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BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. Abu _ (United Arab Emirates capital)
6. Perform on Broadway
9. Wharfs
14. Keepsake of yore
15. Oslo's lil' locale
16. Remove a toque
17. Alvin _ American Dance Theater
18. Universal principle
19. Turkey treatment
20. Christmas meal condiment: 2 wds.
23. Some deer
24. Howdys
25. Does better than F
29. Christmas _
31. Christmas servings
35. Ancient seaport of Rome
36. Pew user's supports
38. Opening
39. Ghost of Christmas Past, for one
41. Vexing
43. Commandments number
44. Every 60 minutes
46. Ancient column style
47. Winter hill surface
49. _Margret
50. Musical compositions
51. Daily time segments, briefly
53. Racing's 'Romeo'
55. Popular buys during the festive season: 3 wds.



62. Soil fertilizers
63. Globe
64. Blue _ (Canadian band)
65. Ram's sign
66. Long-snouted fish
67. _days
68. Rene Descartes: "Je _ donc je suis." (I think,

- therefore I am)
69. "I _ Rock" by Simon & Garfunkel
70. Rug-making apparatus
- DOWN
1. Bram Stoker's _lil' vampire
2. Prince Charles,

- for one
3. Teatro _ Scala (Milan opera house)
4. "Tres _!"
5. Visible sign from the stepping-outside-person that it's really cold out there: 2 wds.
6. Cavern
7. Become rough
8. Brad Pitt's ancient film
9. Persian Gulf emirate
10. Forward-moving surge
11. Swanky
12. "Citizen _" (1941)
13. Sault _ Marie, Ontario

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

			8	1	2		
3	7						
2							5
8	9	3					4
4							3
9	5	8	2				
6							8
	2	1					
9	4	5					

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★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
For the next month, the Sun is at the top of your chart, shining a flattering light on you. This makes you look great in the eyes of bosses, parents and VIPs. Yay!

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Do whatever you can to get out of town and experience a change of scenery during the next month, because you need this! You're eager for stimulation and new experiences.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You will be intense about everything in the next four weeks. However, this is a good time to wrap up loose ends with inheritances, taxes and shared property.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Partnerships and friendships are on your mind for the next month. Many of you will run into ex-partners at this time.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Your efficiency at work might suffer now because of Mercury retrograde. Nevertheless, you will do your best to be on top of your game during the next four weeks.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
During the month ahead, you'll want to play! Vacations, romantic escapes, sports events, the arts and playful times with children will be tops on your list.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Home, family and your private life will demand your attention during the next four weeks. Many of you are in contact with relatives whom you haven't seen in a while.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
The pace of your days in the month ahead will accelerate — there's no question about it. Life will be busy with short trips and errands, plus increased reading, writing and studying.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
The pace of your days will accelerate during the next four weeks, because you will be busy with short trips and many errands. Gear up for this busier schedule.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The Sun will be in your sign for the next four weeks, energizing you in a wonderful way. This will attract people to you, especially people from your past!

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
This is a lovely time for you to buy wardrobe items. It's also a great time to do research of any kind. Make plans behind the scenes for your coming year ahead.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Enjoy increased popularity with others in the next four weeks. People want to see you and be part of your world. (It's nice to be loved.)

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